

**Outbreak-Associated Cases of Varicella**  
Cases Reported January 1 through June 30, 2008



Investigation by:

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In Kansas, all children enrolled in kindergarten through third grade are required to have either proof of vaccination or history of disease. In addition, individual cases of varicella became reportable to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in 2003. In January 2008, the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology (OSE) began collecting information on outbreaks of varicella. From January 1 to June 30, 563 cases of varicella were reported to OSE and 278 (49.4%) were outbreak related.

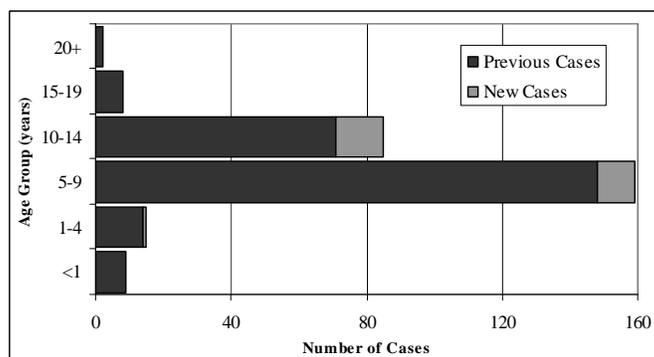
OSE identified one new outbreak after April 30. A total of 38 outbreaks have been recognized among children (daycare through high school) in eleven different counties. Half of the outbreaks were located in four large urban counties. The number of cases associated with an outbreak ranged from 2 to 44 cases.

Gender among the outbreak-associated cases was evenly distributed (Table 1). The majority of the cases were white. Fifty-eight percent of all cases were 'Not Hispanic/Latino' but information was missing on 27% of the cases. Most of the cases were aged 5 to 9 years of age, with a range of 3 months to 36 years. Teachers were among the cases in two of the outbreaks.

### Demographics of Outbreak-associated Varicella Cases

n=278	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	46.0
Female	52.8
Unknown	1.2
<b>Race</b>	<b>%</b>
Asian	1.8
Black	3.6
White	87.0
Multiple race	2.2
Unknown	5.4
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>
Hispanic/Latino	15.8
Not Hispanic/Latino	58.6
Unknown	25.5
<b>Age</b>	
Mean	8.6 years
Range	3 months - 36 years

### Age Groups of Outbreak-associated Varicella Cases



New Cases – Cases identified after April 30  
 Previous Cases – Cases identified on/before April 30

### Epidemiologic Curve of Varicella Cases Based on Onset Date

